

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN  
MILWAUKEE DIVISION**

WISCONSIN CARRY, INC.,	)	
DAVID BERNSON, and	)	
FRANK HANNAN ROCK	)	
	)	
Plaintiffs,	)	CIVIL ACTION FILE NO.
	)	
v.	)	_____
	)	
JAMES DOYLE, in his official	)	
Capacity as Governor of the State of	)	
Wisconsin,	)	
CITY OF MILWAUKEE,	)	
CITY OF RACINE,	)	
KURT KEZESKE,	)	
SGT. NETHERY, and	)	
R. PRINCE,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**COMPLAINT**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This is in action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for various violations of Plaintiffs' constitutional rights, and for a declaration that Wisconsin's Gun Free School Zone Act is unconstitutional on its face and as applied to Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs also seek damages against the officer defendants for their wrongful searches

and seizures and against the municipal defendants for their wrongful deprivations of property.

## **II. JURISDICTION & VENUE**

- 2 . This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 28 U.S.C. 1343.
- 3 . Venue is proper because some of the Defendants are located in this District and in this Division, and some of the Plaintiffs reside in this District and in this Division.
- 4 . Joinder of the Defendants is proper because the claims against them arise under the same series of transactions or occurrences and there are common questions of law and fact in the claims against them.

## **III. PARTIES**

- 5 . Plaintiff Wisconsin Carry, Inc. (“WCI”) is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin.
- 6 . Plaintiff David Bernson is a citizen of the United States, a resident of the State of Arizona, and a member of WCI.
- 7 . Plaintiff Frank Hannan Rock is a citizen of the United States, a resident of the State of Wisconsin, and a member of WCI.
- 8 . Defendant James Doyle is the Governor of the State of Wisconsin

9. Defendant City of Milwaukee is a municipal corporation organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin.
10. Defendant City Racine is a municipal corporation organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin.
11. Defendant Kezeske is an officer with the City of Milwaukee Police Department.
12. Defendant Nethery is a sergeant with the City of Racine Police Department.
13. Defendant Prince is an officer with the City of Racine Police Department.

#### **IV. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

14. On May 14, 2008, Kezeske arrested Bernson.
15. Kezeske did not have a warrant to arrest Bernson.
16. At the time of the arrest, Bernson was a resident of the State of Wisconsin.
17. The arrest took place within the home, or at least within the curtilage of Bernson's residence.
18. Contemporaneously with the arrest, the Kezeske seized a handgun and other personal property belonging to Bernson.
19. Such property was seized pursuant to a search that took place within Bernson's residence.

20. Kezeske did not have a warrant to search Bernson's residence.
21. Kezeske also searched Bernson's automobile.
22. Kezeske did not have a warrant to search Bernson's automobile.
23. Kezeske transported Bernson to the police department, but ultimately released him without charge.
24. Bernson later filed a petition requesting the return of his property.
25. Bernson's petition was denied, in part because Bernson allegedly had possessed the handgun at a gasoline station within 1,000 feet of a school in the City of Milwaukee.
26. On September 21, 2009 and September 23, 2009, respectively, Plaintiffs' counsel wrote the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office and the City of Milwaukee's legal department, requesting the return of Plaintiff's property.
27. The City of Milwaukee responded by recommending Bernson contact the District Attorney.
28. The District Attorney did not respond.
29. The City of Milwaukee continues to retain Bernson's property.
30. On September 9, 2009, Hannan Rock was on the front porch of his home in the City of Racine.

31. City of Racine police officers, including Defendants Nethery and Prince, approached Hannan Rock and asked him his name.
32. Hannan Rock declined to provide his name, and Nethery and Prince arrested Hannan Rock for obstructing the officers.
33. Nethery and Prince also seized Hannan Rock's firearm.
34. Nethery and Prince lacked probable cause to arrest Hannan Rock and to seize his firearm.
35. Nethery and Prince arrested Hannan Rock and seized his property without a warrant.
36. Nethery and Prince arrested Hannan Rock within the curtilage of his home.
37. The Racine County District Attorney ultimately declined to prosecute Hannan Rock.
38. The Racine County District Attorney also warned Hannan Rock that, because Hannan Rock lives within 1,000 feet of a school, officers will have probable cause to arrest Hannan Rock at his home whenever he has a firearm and refused to identify himself to officers.
39. The City of Racine retained possession of Hannan Rock's firearm for several weeks before returning it.

- 40 . WCI's mission is to preserve, advance and expand the rights of its members to keep and bear arms.
- 41 . Bernson, Hannan Rock and other members of WCI desire to exercise their state and federal constitutional rights to bear arms but are in fear of doing so because they live, work, and spend leisure time within 1,000 feet of schools.
- 42 . Wisconsin's Gun Free School Zone Act covers such a broad area that it practically forecloses a meaningful right to keep and bear arms in large parts of the state.
- 43 . As the governor of the State of Wisconsin, the executive power of the state is vested in Doyle.
- 44 . As the chief executive of the state, Doyle is responsible for the enforcement of the Gun Free School Zone Act.

**Count 1 – Violations of Fourteenth Amendment**

- 45 . By arresting Bernson within his home, or within the curtilage of his home, without a warrant and without probable cause, Kezeske violated Bernson's 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures.

46. By seizing Bernson's property from his home without a warrant, Kezeske violated Bernson's 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures.
47. By searching Bernson's automobile without a warrant, Kezeske violated Bernson's 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures.
48. By retaining Bernson's property without his being convicted of a crime, the City of Milwaukee has violated and continues to violate Bernson's 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment right to be free from unreasonable seizures and from deprivation of property without due process.
49. By refusing to return Bernson's property because he allegedly possessed a firearm at a gas station within 1,000 feet of a school, Doyle and Milwaukee have applied the Wisconsin Gun Free School Zone Act against Bernson in an unconstitutionally overbroad fashion.
50. By arresting Hannan Rock within the curtilage of his home, without a warrant and without probable cause, Nethery and Prince violated Hannan Rock's 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures.

51. By seizing Hannan Rock's property without probable cause, Nethery and Prince violated Hannan Rock's 14<sup>th</sup> right to free from unreasonable searches and seizures.
52. By retaining Hannan Rock's property without probable cause, the City of Milwaukee violated Hannan Rock's 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures and from deprivation of property without due process.
53. By threatening Hannan Rock with arrest for carrying a firearm at his own home because his home is located within 1,000 feet of a school, Doyle has applied the Wisconsin Gun Free School Zone Act over broadly.
54. By creating an enforcing a law that prohibits carrying a firearm within 1,000 feet of a school, the state has deprived Plaintiffs of a meaningful right to bear arms.

### **Prayer for Relief**

Plaintiffs demand the following relief:

55. Damages to Bernson and Hannan Rock for their wrongful arrests and searches and seizure of their property and for the wrongful retention of their property.



- 56. A declaration that the Wisconsin Gun Free School Zone Act is unconstitutional as applied to Bernson and Hannan Rock.
- 57. A declaration that the Wisconsin Gun Free School Zone Act unconstitutionally deprives Plaintiffs of a meaningful opportunity to bear arms and is unconstitutional on its face and as it applies to WCI's members.
- 58. An injunction prohibiting Defendants from denying Plaintiffs the right to carry firearms in their own homes.
- 59. An injunction prohibiting Defendants from enforcing the Wisconsin Gun Free School Zone Act to the extent the Act is unconstitutional.
- 60. Attorney's fees and costs for bringing and maintaining this action.
- 61. A jury to try to this case.
- 62. Any other relief the Court deems proper.

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